Name of the cities	2001		2002	
	No. of road accidents	No. of persons killed	No. of road accidents	No.of persons killed
Delhi	9344	1842	8699	1696
Mumbai	26329	543	25470	475
Kolkata	10555	440	NA	NA
Chennai	5280	708	3682	500

NA-Not available

(c) Road accidents are caused by a number of factors such as driver's fault, mechanical defects in the vehicles, fault of pedestrians, bad road, bad weather etc.

Private Participation in Port Sector

2601. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that maritime sector is aimed at promoting private participation in the shipping and port sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is fact that a rail corridor would be implemented between Delhi and Mumbai; and

(d) if so, the purpose thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The existing policy dispensation provides for private sector participation including foreign direct investment upto 100% in the Maritime Sector including Ports and Harbours, Merchant Shipping and Inland Water Transport. The Government's endeavour is to "provide a facilitative investor friendly environment with transparent procedures and decision making process for encouraging private sector participation in the Maritime Sector. This is an on-going process.

(c) and (d) Setting-up a dedicated freight rail corridor between Mumbai and Delhi would facilitate smooth and speedy evacuation of cargo, particularly containerized cargo, from/to Jawaharlal Nehru Port and Mumbai Port to/from their destinations/origin in the northern and north western hinterlands. However, there is no firmed up proposal for a dedicated freight rail corridor between Delhi and Mumbai at present.

High Security Registration Plates

2602. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to make High Security Registration Plates mandatory for all vehicles in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the cost involved in replacement of the old plates for each vehicles, and rational behind this decision;

(c) whether Government have fixed any time frame for the replacement of the old plates by the new High Security Registration Plates; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The date of implementation of High Security Registration Plates in respect of new vehicles has been prescribed as 31st May, 2005 or any earlier date as may be specified by a State Government for that State.

The main features of the Plates are as under: —

i. Chromium hologram which is not easily replicable.

ii. A Retro-reflective film, bearing a verification inscription 'India' at 45 degree inclination, which cannot be easily replicated.

iii. Laser Numbering, which is unique in nature containing alpha-numeric identification of both Testing Agencies and the manufacturers.

iv. The registration numbers to be embossed on the plates making it difficult to be replicated.

v. In case of rear registration plate, same is to be fitted with a non-reusable snap lock to make it tamper proof.